

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 L-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 FDRE-00 DPW-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0365

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05950

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, US, VN

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON VIETNAM SITUATION

REF: LONDON 5509

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1. MALE, ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY, CALLED POLITICAL

COUNSELOR TO FCO THIS AFTERNOON APRIL 18 TO RECEIVE BRITISH REPLY TO U.S. NOTE ON VIET NAM WHICH AMBASSADOR DELIVERED TO FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN APRIL 11. TEXT OF BRITISH NOTE FOLLOWS IN TWO.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE PRESENT THEIR COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAVE THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 7 OF THE 11TH OF APRIL

THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM, AND PARTICULARLY THE HUMAN SUFFERING THERE, ARE OF DEEP CONCERN TO HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND TO THE BRITISH PEOPLE. THE INTERESTS OF COMMON HUMANITY REQUIRE PEACE IN THE AREA AND THAT MILITARY OPERATIONS SHOULD CEASE. HMG WOULD WELCOME PROGRESS TOWARDS A POLITICAL SOLUTION COMPATIBLE WITH THE AGREEMENT ON ENDING THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIETNAM SIGNED AT PARIS ON THE 27TH OF JANUARY 1973.

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT REMAIN WILLING TO LEND THEIR SUPPORT TO ANY INITIATIVE WHICH MAY LEAD TO THIS RESULT. THEY HAVE THEREFORE GIVEN THE MOST EARNEST AND CAREFUL THOUGHT TO THE PROPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, BUT HAVE CONCLUDED REGRETFULLY THAT FOR THE PRESENT NO ACTION OPEN TO HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT WOULD BE LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO A RESOLUTION OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT ARE KEEPING THE SITUATION UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW, AND WILL REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AS THEY WILL WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

MEANWHILE, AS A PRACTICAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE ALLEVIATION OF HUMAN SUFFERING, THEY HAVE RECENTLY MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO PROVIDE FURTHER HUMANITARIAN AID TO ASSIST THOSE AFFECTED THROUGHOUT VIETNAM. END QUOTE.
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3. MALE SAID THAT BRITISH DO NOT REPEAT NOT INTEND TO PUBLISH NOTE. ONLY IF PRESSED WILL THEY STATE PUBLICLY THAT THEY HAVE REPLIED TO U.S. NOTE. BRITISH REPLY TO U.S. WILL BE SENT TO BRITISH MISSIONS IN EC CAPITALS FOR TRANSMISSION AS CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION TO EC PARTNERS.

4. COMMENT: BRITISH DECISION TO HANDLE THEIR REPLY AS CONFIDENTIAL CONFORMS TO STATEMENTS CALLAGHAN MADE TO AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON APRIL 11. BRITISH OFFICIALS ARE CLEARLY DISCOMFITED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN INDO CHINA AND THE DIVERGENCE BETWEEN U.S. AND THEMSELVES, WHILE STICKING PRIVATELY TO LINE CALLAGHAN TOOK WITH AMBASSADOR LAST WEEK. CALLAGHAN IS, AS WE REPORTED EARLIER THIS WEEK, DISTURBED BY EFFECTS ON US-EUROPEAN DIALOGUE OF LEAKS IN DUBLIN AND LUXEMBOURG OF SECRETARY'S ORAL DEMARCHE TO EC NINE, AND OFFICIAL BRITISH PUBLIC STANCE ON VIET NAM HAS IN ALL RESPECTS REFLECTED CALLAGHAN'S ASSURANCES TO AMBASSADOR THAT HMG WOULD NOT ACCENTUATE US-UK DIFFERENCES. MILLER

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